



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

OPERATION NETS 14 FUGITIVES

Ten of the arrested have been convicted of crimes including burglary, assault and forgery

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal operation that ended Friday resulted in the arrests of 14 Charlotte fugitives who had been on the run and in hiding.

Ten of those arrested had criminal convictions ranging from theft and forgery, to larceny and weapons charges.

All of those arrested had been ordered removed from the United States by an immigration judge, but chose to ignore their orders of removal.

“We will leave no stone unturned until we identify and remove the criminals that are hiding in our communities,” said John Mata, ICE’s field office director for detention in removal in Atlanta. “We will fulfill our congressional mandate by restoring integrity to our nation’s immigration system.”

Those arrested are from the following countries: Mexico, Honduras, Australia, Nigeria, Colombia, El Salvador and Laos. All are in ICE custody awaiting removal.

ICE's detention and removal efforts nationwide promote public safety and national security by ensuring that all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed to their home countries as expeditiously as possible.

ICE's Atlanta office is home to one of 18 absconder teams nationwide which are tasked with locating and apprehending aliens who attempt to hide in the United States despite the lawful orders of immigration judges who have ordered the aliens to leave the country.

In Atlanta, ICE has arrested more than 500 criminal aliens since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2005. ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area in Fiscal Year 2004; 2,105 were criminal aliens.

Officers of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department assisted in making these arrests.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.